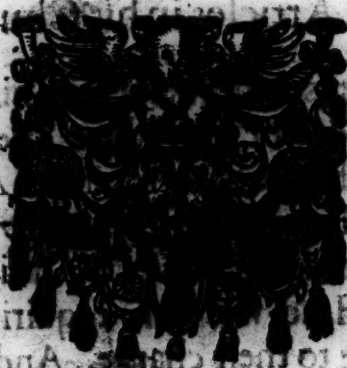


ARTICLES, TO BE ENQVI RED OF WITHIN THE DIOCES OF EXETER.

in the ~~Year 1625~~ Visita-
tion of the Reverend Father in
God, *Valentine* Lord Bishop of
EXETER.

HOLDEN, in his Low.^{ps} peculiars.
ANNO DOMINI
1625.




Imprinted at LONDON.
1625.



The Oath of Church-wardens and Side-men.

YOU shall duly inquire and true presentment make, of all offences done within your parish against his Maiesties Ecclesiasticall Lawes, together with the names of the several offenders, especially such as concerne these Articles now giuen you in charge.

So helpe you God.



A Monition to the Minister to read these Articles in his Church.

THE Minister is to intimate vnto his Parishioners, the first Sunday or Holyday, after the receite of these Articles, that he hath received Articles for the Visitation of the Lord Bishop of Exeter, and presently after the publike reading of them, he is to deliuer the Booke vnto the Head-warden, requiring him and his assistants to looke to their charge. And the said Minister is to afford his best helpe thereunto.

It is wished that the Church-wardens and Sidemen would bring with them their Presentments ready written, with their names subscribed thereunto.

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Articles to be inquired of within the Diocesse of Exeter.



IN primis, whether your Church Chappell and Chancell bee in a decent and seemely order, and not decayed or deformed in any part? Are the Ten Commandements set vpon the East end of your said Church and Chappell? And are other chosen sentences of the Scripture written vpon the wals thereof in comenient places, and haue you belonging to your Church a Bible in the largest Volume, not torne or wanting leaues, two Bookes of Common Prayer of the last Edition and largest Volume, the Bookes of Homilies, and the workes of Bishop Iewell, the Paraphrase of Erasmus: if not, then what is defectiue, and by whose default?

Church.

2 Item, whether you haue two sayre and sitting Surplices with sleeves for your Minister, & another without sleeves for your Clarke, a Font of Stone set in the ancient vsuall place of your Church, with a comely Timber couering thereunto, a decent Communion Table, with a Carpet of Silke or such like, and a sayre linnen Cloth belonging to the same Table, a Communion Cup of Siluer, and a couer agreable to the same, and a sweete Pot or Scoop of Pewter, if not, of purer Mettall, to containe the Wine prepared for the Lords Table?

3 Item, whether you haue your accustomed number of Bells fit and seruiceable for ringing, and how many are the bells which

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now you haue, and whether your number of Bels bee diminished or not, if so, then by whom and for what cause?

4 Item, whether you haue a comely Deske or seate for your Minister, six seates for the people, and a high Pulpit well fashioned, and strongly built, with a decent Cushion or Cloath for the same; and is the said Pulpit so placed, that all the Congregation may best heare the Preacher? Is the Roofe of your Church, Chancell, and Chappell well repayed, and are the windowes thereof well glazed, and is the floore of the same kept pauced plaine and even, and are the granes decently couered, if not, then what is amisse, and by whose default?

5 Item, whether you haue a Register Booke in Parchment, and one sufficient strong Chest for the keeping of the said Register Booke and other writings and Ordinaments of the Church, with three Lockes, and three Keyes to the same, are the names of the parents of euery Child baptizd, orderly written in the said Booke, and is the date of euery Licence for persons married without banes specified therein: haue you a sure Chest or Box to keepe the Almes for the poore, furnished in like manner with three lockes and keyes?

Church-
yard.

6 Item, whether your Church-yard bee well fenced and kept cleane, or is it any way annoyed and defiled by any beastes or carriage into it, and by whose default? And hath there beene of late cut downe any Tree or Trees growing in your Church-yard, or in the fences of the same, and by whom, and to what vse haue the same beene imployed?

7 Item, whether any person or persons haue used bowling in your Church-yard, or hath quarrelled, struggled, brawled, or fought in your Church or Church-yard, or hath there laid violent hands vpon any other, or drawne any weapon, to the intent to strike any body therewith?

8 Item, whether hath any person excommunicated, or any recusant convicted, or any that hath destroyed their owne life beene buried in your Church or Church-yard, if so, then who, and by whom, and how long since?

9 Item, whether your Church bee void of an Incumbent, or full: if full, then of what yeeres was the said Incumbent when he was instituted thereunto, and whether is he resident, and is he a licensed

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cented Preacher, and doth he perforce his dutie in preaching once euery Sunday, soberly and sincerely diuiding the word of Truth, to the glory of God, and to the best edification of the people?

10 Item, whether your Minister weare Apparell decent and fit for his calling, as namely, the Gowne, Tippet, and square Cap, the Cloake with sleeues, the Cuffe and other Apparell, enioyned & appointed vnto him in the Booke of Canons, lately set forth?

11 Item, whether your Minister vseth the Orders, Rites and Ceremonies of the Church, as namely, the Surplesse euery Sunday and Holy day, and at all other times when he celebrateth Diuine Service, doth he vse the Ring in Marriage, and the signe of the Crosse in Baptisme, and whether doth hee read the Prayers and other Diuine Service prescribed in the Booke of Common Prayer, without adding or diminishing any thing in the matter or forme thereof?

12 Item, whether your Minister hath taken vpon him to preach or expound any Scripture or matter of doctrine, not being thereunto allowed by the Bishop of the Diocesse, vnder his Episcopall seale, or doth any vse to preach or to be a Lecturer, who doth not twice in the yeere at the least read Diuine Service openly in the Church, and administer the Sacraments of Baptisme and the Lords Supper in his Surplesse.

13 Item, whether your Parson or Vicar, being no licenced Preacher, hath procured monethly Sermons to be preached in his Cure, by such as are allowed publike Preachers, and whether the names of all such Preachers bee noted and written in a booke ordained for that purpose, together with the date of euery licence, and the name of the granter thereof?

14 Item, whether your Minister declare vpon the Sunday vnto the people, the Holy-dayes and Fasting dayes in the weeke following?

15 Item, whether your Minister being desired thereunto, hath not visited the sicke persons of the Parish, or hath not resorted vnto such, to instruct and comfort them in their distresse, or whether hath hee refused or delayed to christen any Child, or to burie any such Corps, which by Law are allowed Christian buriall?

16 Item, whether your Minister hath commonly giuen himselfe to any base or seruile labour, or to drinking and riot, or to playing

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playing at Dice, Cards, or Tables, or is he reputed to be an incontinent person, or is hee any way offensive in his doctrine or behaviour, or doth he keepe in his house any man or woman suspected to be of ill behaviour or bad life?

17 Item, whether your Minister haue beene noted, suspected or defamed, to haue gotten his Benefice by Simony, namely, by giuing or promising by himselfe or any other, some money, gift, reward, pension or some portion of Tythes, or Glebe-land, or any kind of profit whatsoever, directly or indirectly, for the hauing and obtaining of his presentation, institution or induction to the said Benefice; If so, then declare and present what you know, beleeue, or haue heard heereof.

18 Item, whether your Ministers Mansion house, namely, the Parsonage or Vicarage, or any houses thereunto belonging, or the hedges of his Glebe and sanctuary ground be in any part decayed, and not yet sufficiently repayed, or whether the Patrone hath taken away part of his Glebe, or mingled it with his owne Land?

19 Item, whether you haue heard that your Minister hath any other Benefice in this Diocesse or in any other Diocesse, and where doth it lye, and by what name is it called?

20 Item, whether your Minister hath beene absent from his Benefice, hauing cure of soules, by the space of fourescore daies or more, in any one yeere, and vpon what occasion as neere as you can learne? And whether hath he made any lease, contract or promise, or giuen any bond, or made any covenant whatsoever to any lay person or persons, for the enioying, collecting, demanding and receiuing of the tythes, fruits, and profits of his said Benefice, and whether doth any lay person or persons receiue and possesse the said Tythes or any part thereof, and how long hath hee or they so done, and what be their names?

Curate.

21 Item, whether you haue a Curate, and doth hee demean himselfe honestly, religiously, and dutifully in his calling, and by what name is hee called, and whether is the number of your Parishioners great or little, and is the said Curate licensed, to serue such Cure by the Bishop of the Diocesse, or his Chancelor, vnder seale, and doth he serue any more Cures then one? and what yearly stipend or wages hath your said Curate?

22 Item, whether your Parson or Vicar, or any Proprietary

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of Farmer of any Benefice doth receiue and allow any Curate to serue in any Church or Chappell, without the speciall admission and approbation of the Bishop, or his Chancelloz, or hath your Parson, Vicar, Proprietary or Farmer displaced any Curate so admitted.

23 Item, whether doth your Minister read the Letanie vpon Wednesdaies and Frydaies weekly throughout the yeere, and doth euery Householder dwelling within halfe a Myle of the Church, come or send thither one of his Household fit to ioyne with the Minister in Prayers? Minister & Parishioners

24 Item, whether your Minister vpon euery Sunday and Holy-day for the space of halfe an houre or more before Euening Prayer, doe diligently examine and instruct the Youth and simple ignorant persons of his Parish in the ten Commandements, the Articles of the Beleeefe, the Lords Prayer, and the Catechisme set forth in the Booke of Common Prayer, and whether any of your Parishioners haue refused or neglected to send their Childzen or seruants to the Church, the time aforesaid, to be instructed and catechized, and what be the names of such as haue offended in the premises?

25 Item, whether hath Morning Prayer duely and orderly beene celebrated in your Church, vpon the First day of Nouember, yeely, according to an Act of Parliament in that behalfe, made for the prayling of God, for his mercifull deliuerance of this Realme, from that most barbarous and cruell intended treason of blowing by the Parliament-house with Gun-powder, and haue all your Parishioners reuerently frequented your parish Church, to the end aforesaid, and hath the said Act of Parliament, then and there beene openly read vnto them?

26 Item, whether your Minister in the time of diuine Seruice, and in the beginning of his Sermon, vse to pray for the King according to the Booke of Common Prayer and the Lawes of this Realme, exhorting the people to obedience to his Maiesty, and to all other Magistrates being in authority vnder him?

27 Item, whether any person hath affirmed that any part of the publike worship of God, contained in the Booke of Common Prayer, is corrupt, superstitious or unlawfull, or contayneth any thing in it contrary to the Scriptures?

28 Item,

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28 Item, whether any combine themselves together in a new Brotherhood, and separate themselves from such as are conformable to the doctrine, government, and rites, and ceremonies of the Church of England, accounting such conformable persons, prophane and vnmeet for them to ioyne with in Christian profession?

29 Item, whether your Parson or Vicar hath peereley distributed some portion of money or other Almes amongst the poore of his Parish, and hath hee publikely in the Church admonished and exhorted his Parishioners to make true and faithfull payment of their Tythes?

30 Item, whether your Minister hath publikely celebrated the holy Communion foure times in the yeere at the least, not admitting therunto any excommunicate person, or any other by the Laws not to be admitted or any standing or sitting?

31 Item, whether your Minister hath refused or omitted euery halfe yeere to declare in his Church the names of all such in his Parish as are excommunicated, or hath he admitted to the Church any excommunicate person, or any woman hauing had a child unlawfully begotten, to publike thanksgiving after her deliuerance, without the licence of his Ordinarie?

Marriages.

32 Item, whether your Minister hath solemnized mariage betweene any parties, the banns being not first vpon Three seuerall Sundayes or Holy-dayes duly published, or hauing not a licence vnder Seale, for the omission of such banns, from the Bishop or his Chancelor, and how many persons as well licenced as not licenced, haue bene married within these three yeeres last past without such publication of banns: declare and specifie their names in your presentment.

33 Item, whether haue any bene married in the Lent or other time prohibited, without the licence of the Bishop or his Chancelor, or in any priuate place, or at vnreasonable times, and not betweene the houres of Eight and Twelue in the forenoone, or without the consent of their Parents or Governours, if the persons so married were vnder the age of one and Twenty yeeres?

34 Item, whether there bee any within your Parish that haue made two contracts of Matrimonie, with any persons now living, or haue any bene married, being neere of blood or kindred, and namely within the Leviticall degrees, expressed in a Table

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Let forth by authority, and whether in the said table set up in your Church to publike view?

35 Item, whether you know, beleue, or haue heard, that any person or persons bee entertained or admitted into any Tauerne, or into the house of any Inkeeper or Ale-wife, to eate, drinke, or play at Dice, Cards, or Tables, in the time of Common Prayer, or Sermon, on the Sandayes or Holy-dayes? or whether any Worker, Butcher, Taylor, Shoemaker, Miller, Tucher, Barber, or other person, by vsing his Mannell trade or craft, haue violated and profaned the Sabbath or any Holy-day or Festiual day?

Parishioners.

36 Item, whether any haue vsed vniuersally ringing of Bells, and whether any strangers being not contented with the Diuine Service vsed in their owne Parish Church, in disobedience to Law, and in contempt of their Minister, or for any other cause of respect, doe gad from Church to Church, or come often and commonly out of other Parishes to your Church, and there abide at Service time, keeping your Parishioners from their seates, and what bee their names?

37 Item, whether any within your Parish remaine excommunicated, and how long haue they stood so, and what be their names, and so: what cause or causes as you can vnderstand, and whether haue they remained in the Church at the Service time while they stood so excommunicate, or haue any of your Parishioners kept or frequented the company of such excommunicate persons, and who haue they beene that haue frequented such company?

38 Item, whether any of your Parishioners are common Drunkards, or rousewauers and procurers to make any body drunke, blasphemers of Gods holy name, great sweaters, filthy speakers, raylers or sorners of discords among their neighbors, or South-sayers, or Charmers, or doe you know any that haue resorted hither to haue helpe from their griefes, or to haue knowledge of things lost or stolen?

39 Item, whether any now of late remaining or dwelling in your Parish to your knowledge, by common fame and report, haue committed Fornication, Riuellrie, or Incest, or be suspected to be Whores, or harpoyers and recepters of such lewde persons, or hath any man attempted the chastitee of any woman, or solicited her to haue carnall knowledge of her body, and whether they or

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either of them haue bene publickely punished for their offence :

40 Item, whether you know, beleue, or haue heard, that any person within your Parish hath committed the most wicked and damnable crime of perurie in an Ecclesiasticall cause; and who, and vpon what occasion? D 10 21341-11mo

41 Item, whether any man liueth asunder from his wife, or any woman from her husband, and how long haue they done so?

42 Item, whether is there any man within your Parish suspected to haue two Wives liuing, or any woman to haue two Husbands liuing, which were married before the late Statute made in the Kings Maiesties raigne that no man in that behalfe?

43 Item, whether you know, or haue credibly heard, that any person, directly or indirectly hath lent money and receiued, or that hath borrowed money and paye excessive interest for the same, or if any that hath written any Bill, Obligation or Conu- nant for the payment of such Usury, or of any that affirme, that re- ddition not to be made thereof? D 10 21341-11mo

Church-
wardens.

44 Item, whether haue you the Church wardens and Stew- men euery Sunday and Holy day resorted duly and daintly to your Church to heare diuine Service, and absent such as are ab- sent, and such as walke or talke, or weare their Hats vnreuerently, & such as disorderly behaue themselves in the time of diuine Ser- uice, or Administration of the Sacraments, and such as loyted about the Church-yard, or Church-wooch, if you haue so done, shew what be the names of such persons as haue offended in the premises? D 10 21341-11mo

45 Item, whether any Communion Table, Communion Cup, Carpet, or any Organs, Bookes, Vels, Clarke, or any other Ornamentes, or things belonging to your Parish Church, haue bene given, sold, or kept away, or abused and dispoised, and what things, and by whom, and how long since? D 10 21341-11mo

46 Item, whether any person detaineth any sum of money or any other thing given by the Testament or last Will of any bequea- led to your Church, or to the vse of the poore of your Parish, or to any such like godly and charitable vse? D 10 21341-11mo

47 Item, whether haue you at this present, or heretofore haue you had any Land, Houses, or Rents belonging to your Pa- rish Church, and if you be now possessed of any, then of how ma- ny acres of pasture or meadow, and by what name or names is such land

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land called, and where whose ground it is bounded and how long have you bene leased thereof, and what yearly rent doth the same yeeld unto you, and whether have all the rents and profits thereof, received within the time of your knowledge and remembrance, bene bestowed onely for the repaying and adorning of your Church, and providing of things necessary and convenient for the same: and if you have had any land or any house belonging to your Church, which is now out of your possession, then by whom it was sold, and by what authority, and where is the same situate and bounded, and in whose possession both it now remaine?

48 Item, whether the money, goods, and ornaments of your Church, and the money given to the use of your poore, be committed to the Churchwardens custody by bill indented?

49 Item, whether a note or Terrier of all the Glebe-lands, Meadows, Gardens, Orchards, Houses, Stocks, Implements, Tenements and portions of Tithes (as well within your Parish as without) belonging to your spirituall Parsonage or Vicarage, with the bonds and limits thereof, hath bene taken by the view of honest men in your Parish, and whether hath the same bene written in parchment, and subscribed by the Churchwardens and Side-men, together with your Minister, and then deliuered into the Bishops Registerie to be safely kept, according to the order of the now Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, expressed in the Fourth Article ministered in his Graces late Visitation? If not, then you are now to exhibite the said Terrier together with your presentment?

50 Item, whether ordinary perambulations be used in the Rogation dayes, with prayers and thanksgiving unto God for his blessings if there bee a plenty on earth, or otherwise with prayers for his grace and favour, if there be a feare or scarcity, if not, then by whose default?

51 Item, what summe or summes of money have bene given by Testament, to the use of the poore of your Parish for ever, and whether is the same employed according to the order of the Giver, and what be the names of the persons which gaue the same, and whether is any such summe impaired or diminished, decayed or lost, and by whose default?

52 Item, whether any Churchwardens or Sidemen, discharging their duetie upon their Oath, have bene threatened or misused

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for so doing, or have benevored and troubled in any Court, for the presenting of disorders and offences, committed by any ill disposed person?

53 Item, whether your last Church-wardens have made a full and true account, and whether you that be now the Church-wardens and Side-men, were chosen in the Easter weeke, according to the late Canon?

Communicants,

54 Item, whether any persons within your Parish have omitted or neglected to receive the Sacrament Three times in the yeere, the Feast of Easter being one, and whether your Minister, Church-wardens, and Side-men, being yearly bound hereunto, have exhibited within Foote dayes after Easter last past, to the Bishop of this Diocesse, or his Chancelor, the names and surnames of all your Parishioners, as well Men as Women, which being of the age of Sixteene yeeres or upwards, received not the holy Communion at Easter aforesaid?

Physicians and Chirurgicalians.

55 Item, whether any Man or Woman within your Parish, hath professed or practised Whiske or Surgerie, and by what name or names are they called, and whether are they licensed by the Bishop of the Diocesse, or his Vicar generall, and upon whom have they practised, and what good or harme have they done?

Schoole-masters.

56 Item, whether any person hath lately taught, or now doth teach young Schollers in your Parish privately or publicly, and what is his name, and in what house or place hath he taught, and how long, and whether is hee licensed under Seale by the Bishop or his Chancelor so to doe?

57 Item, whether any such Schoolemaster hath bene noted for incontinent life, or any lewd behaviour, or suspected in religion, or negligent in coming to the Church to heare Divine Service, or to receive the holy Communion, or to cause his Schollers to come to the Church, and there to see them keepe good order, and attend devoutly upon the Service of God?

Parish Clarke.

58 Item, whether in the absence of your Minister, or at any other time, hath your Parish Clarke, or any other Lay person, said Common Prayer openly in the Church or any part of Divine Service, which is proper to the Priest?

59 Item, whether your Parish Clarke or Sexton hath had due regard to the Ornamentis of your Church, and to the cleane keeping

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keeping of your Church, and the seats and pewes thereof from
out of any thing which might be noysome?

60 Item, is your Parish Clarke of the age of twenty yeeres at
the least, and of honest conuersation, and sufficient for his reading,
writing, and competent skill in singing, and doth he usually wear
his Surplesse or Rochet in the time of Diuine seruice, and whe-
ther haue any detained his accustomed wages at the accustomed
time of payment?

61 Item, whether there be in your Parish any wilfull and ob-
stinate Papists or recusants, or any that doth defend any point of
Papistray, or any that pray vpon Beads, or worship Images, or
say forbidden seruice, or any that is a receiuer or harbourer of Je-
suits, Seminaries or Dissing Priests, or of any suspected to bee
reconciled to the Church of Rome? and what be the names of
such Recusants, and how long haue they beene so?

Papists and
Recusants.

62 Item, whether any person or persons haue departed this life
within your Parish, whose Testaments are to bee proued by the
Ordinarie, or the administration of their goods to be granted, and
specifie their names, and in whose custodie such goods remaine.

Testaments
and Admin-
istrations.

63 Item, whether hath any person beene hindered or kept from
the making of his or her last Will and Testament, or hath any
Will of the dead beene suppressed, or hath any Executor or Execu-
trix, refused or neglected to fulfill in any point, the last Will and
Testament of any Testator?

64 Item, whether you know, beleue or haue heard that any
Administrator, Tutor, or Guardian of any Orphan, Pupill or pu-
pils hath wasted and consumed the goods of the Pupil committed
to his or her gouernment and keeping, or not imployed and con-
uerted such goods to the best profit, vse and benefit of such father-
lesse and motherlesse Children, or not to haue bestowed their best
endeauours to bring them vp in the feare of God, and to keepe
them from vice?

Orphans.

65 Item, whether is there now, or by your remembrance hath
there beene any Hospitall or Almes-house within your Parish,
and what number of poore, needie, and impotent persons haue
been releeued therein, and by whom was it founded, and whether
it is vsed according to the foundation, and what Land or rents be-
longeth to the same, or hath belonged to it, and whether hath any ill
disposed

Hospitals
and Almes
houses.

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disposed person wrongfully taken into his or her possession; any part of such Land, or detained any Rent or rents belonging unto any such Hospitall or Almshouse, or taken any money or goods for the admitting of any poore person into the said Hospitall or Almshouse?

Chappell
of ease.

66 Item, whether at this present you haue, or heretofore haue you had within your Parish, any Chappell of ease distant from your Parish Church, unto which Chappell no more lands or tenements doe belong, then a Church yard, or a little bogge, or close of ground, and by what name was the said Chappell called, and whether any person or persons, by colour of any Deed or Grant, haue vsurped and taken the same Chappell into his owne private possession.

Archdeacons and
Officials.

67 Item, whether your Archdeacon or his Officiall, or any other person vnder them, haue twice commuted the penance of any person or persons, hauing twice committed the foule crime of Adultery or fornication?

68 Item, whether you know, beleue, or haue heard, that your Archdeacon, his Officiall or his Register, or any other vnder them, hath executed and done any matter of iurisdiction, belonging to the Bishop of this Diocesse, and his Chancelloz, and especially that hath giuen or granted any licence or toleration to any Minister, to marry any couple without banes, or in the prohibited time, or to preach or to serue any Cure, or that hath giuen or granted any licence or toleration to any person or persons, to keepe a Schoole, or to practise Physicke or Chirurgerie, or that your said Archdeacon or his Officiall, or any vnder them, haue taken vpon them to confirme any rate, or haue heard and adiudged any cause of contract of Marriage, or haue giuen sentence in any case of Diuorce?

Apparitors

69 Item, whether you haue in your Parish, any Apparitor who vsually executeth Processe, granted from the Bishops Chancelloz, or from the Archdeacon or his Officiall, and what is his name, and whether hee hath cloked any Adulteries, Fornications, Incests, or other faules and offences committed within your Parish, or in any other Parish neere vnto you, as farre as you can learne or vnderstand, for money, rewards, bribes, friendship, or any

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any other partiall or sinister respect: and declare what you know or doe vnderstand herein.

70 Item, whether doe you know, beleue, or haue had credible vnderstanding of any other crime, or matter aboue not exprest, and yet meet to be knowne and reformed by the Ordinary: If you know any such matter, you shall likewise present the same by vertue of your Oath. And you are to make presentment of euery offence before mentioned, which hath not bene heretofore lawfully punished.



These things must be exhibited by the Church-wardens and Side-men, in the Visitation, together with their Presentment.

A Terrier of the Glebe-land and Implements belonging to their Parsonage or Vicarage written in Parchment.

A note of all Summes of money giuen by any Testament for euer to the vse of the poore of your Parish.

A copie of the Inuentarie of the goods and ornaments of the stocke of money belonging to your Church.

FINIS.